Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) (1) Construction of rat-proof godowns and wharfs.
(2) Reclamation of an area in front of the wharfs.
(3) Construction of roads and drains

(*b*) The cost of acquiring the land alone is not available.

(*c*) The c st of acquiring the area with buildings according to the proposed scheme is estimated at Rs. 2·76 lakhs approximately for the 1st stage of the scheme.

(*d*) The prices of the important building materials at Cochin as per the departmental schedule of rates are given below. The same rates were prevalent in December, 1940 also.

	Rs.	A.	P.		
1. Laterite stones	9	12	9	per	100 Cft.
2. Machine-made brick 1st class	22	0	0	,,	1000 No.
3. Flooring tiles 9″ sq. 1st class	31	0	0	,,	,,
4. Roofing tiles do.	30	0	0	,,	,,
5. Ridge tiles 1st class	80	0	0	,,	,,
6. Lime	12	14	10	,,	100 Cft.
7. Cement	1	14	0	,,	Cft.
8. Clean river sand	2	15	0	,,	100 Cft.
9. Timber Teak	35	0	0	,,	candy
Irul	20	0	0	,,	,,
Pullamaradu	16	0	0	,,	,,
10. Granite rubble stones	6	15	4	,,	100 Cft.
11. 1¼″ granite metal	7	5	1	,,	,,

For iron materials no definite rate can be given due to the unsteady market condition. The rates have gone up twice and thrice even more than the pre-war level.

(*e*) Rs. 55,650 for the buildings in the 1st stage area alone.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What has prevented the Government from carrying through this scheme?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The prohibitive cost. The first stage itself would cost 7½ lakhs.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware that it is a self-supporting scheme and that the people were prepared to find the money themselves and carry on the work. What is the objection of the Government in allowing a Town Improvement Trust in carrying out this work by floating debenture loans?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That can be considered.

WOMEN SWEEPERS—EMPLOYMENT OF—MUNICIPALITIES, TOWN COUNCILS, ETC.

278. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of women sweepers employed by the Municipalities, Town Councils (when they existed), Panchayats and Public Health Department for sweeping public roads;

(*b*) if there are none, the reason;

(*c*) whether the Government of Travancore employs women sweepers also to sweep public roads?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) There are 25 women sweepers employed by the Mattancheri Municipality and one by the Manalur Panchayat in the Panchayat Department.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Government have no information.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Cannot the Government give instructions to Municipalities other than Mattancheri to reserve a certain percentage of posts for employing women sweepers?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The Government have not objected to the appointment of women sweepers by any of the Municipalities in the State and they expect that the lead given by the Mattancheri Municipality will be followed by others.

PERCENTAGE OF CLERKS IN THE GRADE OF Rs. 40—60 AND ABOVE—CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

279. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the names of the Departments in which the clerks in the grade of Rs. 40—60 and above are below 35 per cent of the total number of clerks after the re-organisation and general revision of pay in 1105 M.E.;

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(*b*) the reasons for this unequal revision of grades of pay?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) The names of the Departments are given below.—

(*i*) Archaeology, (*ii*) Co-operative, (*iii*) Public Health and Panchayats, (*iv*) Government Pleader's Offices, (*v*) Revenue, (*vi*) Government Press, (*vii*) Agriculture, (*viii*) Medical, (*ix*) Magisterial, (*x*) Income-tax, (*xi*) Education, (*xii*) Registration and Achal, (*xiii*) Forest and Tramway, (*xiv*) Industries and Commerce, (*xv*) Uplift of the Depressed Classes, (*xvi*) Civil Judicial Department and (*xvii*) Jails.

(*b*) There is no rule that invariably the proportion of clerks in the higher grade should not be below 35 per cent.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government do not think it desirable that the departments mentioned here also have the same sort of privilege for clerks to rise to the 40—60 grade as in other offices?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Wherever possible the Government will look into the matter.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What harm is there by having a rule?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is not considered necessary to have any hard and fast rule.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Whether the Government have enquired about the practice followed by the Madras and Travancore Governments?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No formal enquiries have been made.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I think the Diwan Peishkar's Office and the Office of the Director of Public Instruction are bigger than the P. W. D. Office. Anyhow will the Government be pleased to enquire about this and ascertain the policy of the Governments of Madras and Travancore and set right the inequality of the grade of clerks?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There is no question of inequality here. If it is considered necessary the Government will make enquiries.

CYCLONE LOANS—PEOPLE OF MELUR VILLAGE—DISBURSING OF

280. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Melur village is not one of the villages most terribly affected by the Cyclone;

(*b*) the number of persons who have applied for loans from the Melur village;

(*c*) the amount disbursed to Melur village by way of loans up to 30th Makaram 1117;

(*d*) if no amount is disbursed, is there any prospect of disbursing these loans in the near future?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) Melur is one of the villages in Mukundapuram Taluk greatly affected by the Cyclone, but there are several others worse affected in that Taluk itself.

(*b*) 213; 142 for agricultural improvements and 71 for house construction.

(*c*) Nil.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* The cyclone took place on the 13th of Edavam last year and to-night we complete one year. Can we expect to get any loan?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* As far as possible we are expediting the disbursement of the loan.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* To-night we are completing one year after the cyclone. Can we get any loan? That is a simple question. You say "yes" or "no".

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* The matter is being expedited.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When was the last application received?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know the total amount disbursed till now in the whole State?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* Rs. 2,34,016.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Are there other villages where loans have not been given?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Offg. Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

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